

Out of the depths of a wounded spirit,
crushed by sorrow but comforted by grace,
she wrote this beautiful and tender hymn:

"Father, whate'er of earthly bliss
Thy sovereign will denies,
Accepted at Thy throne of grace,
Let this petition rise:

"Give me a calm, a thankful heart,
From every murmur free;
The blessings of Thy grace impart,
And make me live to Thee.

"Let the sweet hope that Thou art mine
My life and death attend;
Thy presence thru my journey shine,
And crown my journey's end.

Can anyone except a Christian sing like that in time of sorrow? Can atheism, can paganism, can skeptical philosophy, can science, can worldly pleasure or worldly honor inspire such music in the depths? We may find polished literature, elegant poetry, classic music in other fields, but no God, no hope, no salvation, no consolation to inspire the song and tune the lyre.

Bunyan represents his pilgrim passing thru a dark valley infested with goblins and demons, where he was frightened almost to death. When his faith and hope had well-nigh failed he heard a sweet voice not far away, and listening attentively he discovered that a man just before him was singing: "Thou I walk thru the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for Thou art with me; Thy rod and Thy staff they comfort me." The singer did not know that anyone was near. Unwittingly he was inspiring comfort and strength into a weary spirit almost ready to faint in the darkness. There is nothing like a spiritual song to drive away doubt and fear.

And when the spirit of care and worry comes in to hinder prayer and work and progress, there is nothing better than a Christian song to quiet the quivering nerves, to cool the fevered brain, and lift up the hands that hang down. It is Longfellow who sings:

"Such songs have power to quiet
The restless spirit of care;
And come like a benediction
That follows after prayer.
And the night shall be filled with music,
And the cares that infest the day
Shall fold their tents like the Arabs,
And as silently steal away."

One reason why saints sing in the night is, they see the morning beginning to dawn. "Sorrow may endure for a night, but joy cometh in the morning." "The morning cometh." The shadows soon flee away. We shall not always dwell in the depths. There is a better country. Better than Canaan in its palmiest days when honey trickled from the rocks, when the hills were covered with vineyards, and flocks and herds lay down in green pastures. Better than our own country which we love so well. This is a good country. It is a broad, fertile, rich, beautiful land, inhabited by a brave, free, intelligent, and happy people with the best government under the sun. But there is a bet-

ter country. It is inhabited by a noble people, who dwell together in greater peace and harmony under a better government. Compared with that heavenly country, this is often dark and dreary here. The best men often have darkness and sorrow. But they can sing:

"We are traveling home to God,
In the way our fathers trod;
They are happy now, and we
Soon their happiness shall see."

Then let the shadows lengthen. Let the night be ever so dark. We shall not cease our singing. Paul and Silas sang in the night. Those who sing amid the shadows of this world shall also sing amid the glories of the heavenly world. Let the night be filled with music, and the journey will soon end amid the immortal symphonies of that better land.

Sanctifying Power of Praise

Baptist Commonwealth.

A merchant returned home one evening and exclaimed: "I've lost all; everything is gone." It was a bitter blow to the wife, who stood before him in silent sadness. *Ruined!* It is a terrible word to have to speak. But his little daughter throwing her arms around his neck, said, in her sweet simplicity. "Why, papa, you have me left, and mama, too." The strong man wept.

There is always something left; something, and God. "He abideth of old." Always is there room for praise.

We hear a great deal about the sanctifying power of sorrow; and it is a great truth to live by. We need to hear more about the sanctifying power of praise; that is a mightier truth still to live by. In what wrong proportions we look at things. We wish our brightest hours would last always. No, no! That would never do. They last long enough, as a rule. Joy wearies, as well as sorrow. An abiding rapture, who could bear? Not one of us. Hold the rose too long and you will kill it. Better drop it than see it die in your hot hand. We can have too much of good things. A month's unbroken sunshine, and we long for rain.

I thank Thee, Lord, that all my joy
Is touched with pain;
That shadows fall on brightest hours;
That thorns remain;
So that earth's bliss may be my guide
And not my chain.

Among the Churches

Corner Stone Laid

I had the pleasure of being present at the laying of the corner stone of the Brethren meeting house in Lordsburg, Cal., on the first day of July. Quite a number of people were present, and the occasion was marked with solemnity. The Bible was laid as the true corner stone by Elder B. F. Schisler, in a corner of the foundation. Further particulars of the occasion will be given by the pastor.

I see an article in our EVANGELIST by D. F. Eikenberry, "The need of a catechism for the Brethren Church." Our editor on page 15, July 4, No.

26, congratulates Brother Eikenberry on the masterly way in which he has shown the need of a catechism for the Brethren Church. "We do not think the catechism something with 'horn's' of which we need to be afraid," etc. Neither do I, Brother Gnagey; but perhaps the catechism is a little too young to have "horns" yet. In regard to animals, you know, some of them don't get horns the first year. "The gospel of Christ is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth," God bless you Brother Editor, for giving us such a good paper it is so full of the blessed Christ; it is soul inspiring. Scores of homeseekers are coming to California daily.

JNO. NICHOLSON.

Rosina, Cal.

Announcement

The union harvest meeting of Elkhart Co. will be held in Island Park, Elkhart, Ind., Aug. 1, 1901. Let all the Brethren in the county take notice; also Milford, South Bend and Fairview. These churches were represented there last year, and we all spent a most delightful day together in worship.

There will be preaching both forenoon and afternoon. Everybody bring "Pentecostal Hymns," also baskets well filled with lunch. Come prepared to give a good offering. "Come, let us worship the Lord."

A. R. BEMENDERFER.

Program for Illiokota Conference, Waterloo, Ia., October 1, 2, 3, 1901

- 1 Ministerial Qualifications, R. R. Teeter.
- 2 How Shall we Induce Young People to Enter the Ministry? J. L. Gillin.
- 3 Pastoral Visitation, E. L. Hildebrand.
- 4 Bible Teaching on a Salaried Ministry, Z. T. Livengood.
- 5 District Missions—How Manage, J. O. Talley.
- 6 The Need of Lay Workers and how to Secure Them, Clara Flora.
- 7 Church Supervision; Evangelist or Elders, Which? John A. Myers.
- 8 The Relation of Regularly Organized Churches to the Missionary Board and Missionary Work, Noah Flora.
- 9 The Relation of the Sunday-school to the Church, Fetter Hall.
- 10 Young People as Workers, Ole A. Swadburg.

The order of the program will be arranged later and all routine work will be provided for. There will be preaching by some of the visiting brethren each evening. Further announcements later. Let the churches choose delegates for each twenty-five members or fraction of ten. Delegates must bring credentials.

Blank forms will be mailed to all pastors. Churches without pastors should write for blank credentials. Every church should be represented.

R. R. TEETER.

Flora, Ind.

A beloved sister has been taken from our midst. In speaking of her death from the pulpit last Sunday our pastor expressed a hope that the broken ranks might be repaired; that one might speedily be found to take her place in the church. At the close of the service when the invitation was given a husband and wife answered the call.

At the baptismal service in the afternoon, the sacred rite was administered to an aged sister who some time ago expressed a desire to unite with the Brethren. At a meeting a few weeks ago eight were added by relation to our number.

We feel that God has greatly blessed us. Brother Menaugh preaches for us every two weeks, morning and evening.

MAUDE WINGARD.